

md. U. Lib. History

Letter sent out to the public by Chas. B. Calvert
in 1852

Riverdale, Jan. 30th, 1852.

Dear Sir:

I had the honor of submitting to the Maryland State Agricultural Society, at its last annual meeting, a plan for the establishment of an Agricultural College and Experimental Farm, and the universal favor with which it was received, has induced me to take the liberty of sending this letter to such persons as I have supposed would feel an interest in the matter, to solicit their active co-operation in the cause of agricultural education.

The agricultural community have long felt the want of such institutions, and it is to be hoped that the present generation will do something to elevate the standing of the profession, by establishing colleges and schools which will enable the sons of agriculturists to obtain, not only a liberal, but a professional education. The learned professions, as they are commonly termed, have engrossed most of the talent of all nations. Is it because those professions are more honorable in themselves than agriculture? Certainly not. Is it because they require more talent, learning and energy? It will not be pretended that they do. Then why is it that you find the most talented and promising sons of agriculturists deserting the profession of their fathers for some one of these?

It is because they are endowed by nature with a certain ambitious thirst for distinction, which they feel can only be gratified by uniting themselves with some one of these professional combinations. What is the remedy necessary to remove this incubus which is consuming our vitals? Simply, education—for so soon as you give a professional, and at the same time a liberal education to the farmer, you at once arouse a professional pride to make his own the most honorable of all pursuits, and it is only necessary to arouse this pride to enable the agricultural community to take the position which their intelligence and numbers entitle them to. It cannot be denied that the agricultural community compose the great conservative power of this country—and it is impossible to disguise the fact that we are daily departing from the great principles laid down by the wise men who formed the happy government under which we have become a great and powerful nation. We see daily combinations formed in large cities to manufacture public opinion in favor of some scheme originated solely for the benefit of some selfish individual or political party, without any regard to the great interests of the country. If, on the other hand, the agriculturists were, as a body, liberally and professionally educated, they would take that stand in the political community which their numbers and interests entitle them to, and thereby control such matters, and I therefore trust that you will see the importance of such an establishment in our State, and will give it your active support, by obtaining as many and as large subscriptions as possible.

Very respectfully, your obt. serv't,

CHAS. B. CALVERT.

P. S. It is desirable that these lists should be returned so soon as possible, in order that an application may be made to the Legislature at its present session for a charter and etc. You will please, therefore, procure as many names as possible and forward the list to me, at Washington City.

C. B. C.

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